

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 01388 141042Z

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

OMB-01 /059 W

----- 095575

R 140905Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7122

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GABORONE 1388

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, BC, LT

SUBJECT: LESOTHO POLITICAL FIGURE INTERVIEWED

1. BOTSWANA DAILY NEWS, OCTOBER 9, CARRIED STORY ON VISIT OF BASOTHO CONGRESS PARTY (BCP) LEADER NTSU MOKHEHLE TO GABORONE FROM LUSAKA FOR FUNERAL OF "A COLLEAGUE." STORY HIGHLIGHTS MOKHEHLE'S STATEMENT THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT AN INVITATION TO JOIN A "COALITION GOVERNMENT" IF THREE DEMANDS WERE MET: (1) A MEETING OF LEADERS OF ALL PARTIES SHOULD BE HELD OUTSIDE LESOTHO UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE OAU "OR ANY AFRICAN COUNTRY;" (2) EACH PARTY SHOULD LEAVE FREEDOM TO NOMINATE ITS REPRESENTATIVES TO THE MEETING, THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, AND THE CABINET; (3) THIS NATIONAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE A LIMITED PERIOD OF EXISTENCE AND MUST OPERATE UNDER THE 1966 CONSTITUTION.

2. MOKHEHLE ALSO REFUTED STATEMENT ALLEGEDLY MADE BY LESOTHO PRIME MINISTER THAT MOKHEHLE COULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN COALITION "BECAUSE PEOPLE WOULD KILL HIM' IF HE PUT HIS FOOT ON LESOTHO SOIL". MOKHEHLE CLAIMED STATEMENT WAS "CHEAP PROPAGANDA." HE ALSO SAID "CALL FOR US TO JOIN" A COALITION GOVERNMENT WAS
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PAGE 02 GABORO 01388 141042Z

"AIMED AT GETTING CAPITAL FROM FOREIGN SOURCES", ADDING

THAT FINANCIAL AND MATERNAL AID TO LESOTHO HAS DROPPED "BECAUSE THE OUTSIDE COUNTRIES REALIZED THAT THE CURRENT INTERIM GOVERNMENT IS A CHEAT AND HAS FAILED TO FULFILL ITS PROMISES".

3. LEBANK MPHOTOKWANE OF OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT CLAIMED IN BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF THAT SOTRY WAS PLACED WITHOUT PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OR APPROVAL BY HIS OFFICE. HE ADDED THAT SINCE MOKHEHLE WAS PRESENT IN BOTSWANA AS A BRIEF VISITOR FROM LUSAKA AND NOT AS A POLITICAL REFUGEE OR EXILE, REGULAR STRICTURES AGAINST PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY SUCH PERSONS WOULD NOT APPLY IN HIS CASE. DAILY NEWS EDITOR PAUL RANTAO IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION ALSO SAID THAT SOTRY WAS RUN AS STRAIGHT NEWS ARTICLE WITHOUT PRIOR CHECK WITH THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT.
THOMESN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COALITION GOVERNMENT, PARTY LEADERS, MEETINGS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GABORO01388
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750355-0702
From: GABORONE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751056/aaaabyae.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LESOTHO POLITICAL FIGURE INTERVIEWED
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, BC, LT, (MOKHELHLE, NTSU)
To: LUSAKA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006